

Press Announcement

Theatrical Performance **WE WANT OUT FREEDOM!**

Aruba, September 12 & 13, 2015



The play **WE WANT OUR FREEDOM!** will be performed in Aruba on Saturday, September 12, and Sunday, September 13. It is about a theatrical lawsuit concerning slavery, in which historical figures as the philosopher John Locke, the minister Jacobus Capitein and the slave Virginia act as leading characters. The drama also raises issues like the impartiality of jurisdiction, justice and love.

The title **WE WANT OUR FREEDOM!** is derived from Tula, the leader of the 1795 Curaçao slave revolt. The drama tells the story of the trial against the slave Virginia, who demands her freedom. Her personage is inspired by the rebellious Aruban slave Virginia Dementricia, who has been convicted of running away and irreverence around 1860.

The lawyers Locke and Capitein play rather ambiguous roles in this case. The theologian Capitein has been a slave himself during his boyhood in Africa, but advocated slavery in his dissertation at Leyden University. The philosopher Locke rejects slavery, but owns shares in the slave trade. The role of the judge is not above suspicion either. The outcome of the trial is uncertain ...

We want our freedom! not only deals with slavery, but also touches on the credibility of law and jurisdiction, religion, the relation between reality and fiction, and love. More generally: what is truth?

The play has been performed in Amsterdam in 2013, followed by five sold out performances in Curaçao in 2014. The artistic direction rests with the renowned Curaçaoan director Albert Schoobaar. The roles are performed by the Curaçaoan actors Roy Colastica, Meliza Garmes, Marcel van Duijneveldt and Crisen Schorea. Singing by Elia Isenia gives the drama musical deepening.

Text: **Cees Maris** (language: Dutch, with Papiamentu insertions by Philip Rademaker) Direction: **Albert Schoobaar**
Actors: **Roy Colastica, Meliza Garmes, Marcel van Duijneveldt, Crisen Schorea, Cees Maris** Singing: **Elia Isenia**
Business manager: **Lou Nisbet** Production: **Norma Cova** and **Albert Schoobaar**

The performances are supported by Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Caribisch Gebied and Insel Air.

Performance dates

Saturday, September 12, 20 p.m.

Sunday, September 13, 17 p.m.

Location: Gerecht in Eerste Aanleg van Aruba (J.G. Emanstraat 51, Oranjestad, Aruba)

Price:

Information: